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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 09021 101431Z

47
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15

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P 101211Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8347

UNCLAS PARIS 09021

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, US
SUBJECT: PREPCON: FRENCH NEWSPAPER SUGGESTS US CHANGING
RAW MATERIALS POLICY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF BYLINE ARTICLE BY ALAIN VERNAY IN 10 APRIL "LE FIGARO", WHICH APPEARED UNDER HEADLINE "THE US MIGHT REVISE ITS RAW MATERIALS POLICY":

2. QTE: IS THE US READY TO ENGAGE ITSELF IN A PROCESS TO FUNDAMENTALLY REVISE ITS PRIMARY MATERIALS POLICY, WHICH UP UNTIL NOW HAS CONSISTED OF ALLOWING THE LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND FULL REIN? DOES KISSINGER WISH TO TAKE A PATH WHICH WILL END IN PRICE STABILIZATION AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS FRANCE HAS SUGGESTED?
IS THE SECRETARY OF STATE SIMPLY LAUNCHING TRIAL BALLOONS? THESE ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS WHICH ARE BEING RAISED DURING THE THIRD DAY OF THE PARIS MEETING AT WHICH THE EXPERTS ARE, IN A FAIRLY RELAXED CLIMATE, PREPARING FOR THE HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE BY THE OIL EXPORTING AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES.

3. QTE: THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS HAVE IN EFFECT STATED THAT THEIR PRIMARY PREOCCUPATIONS ARE TO COME TO THE HELP OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN MOST AFFECTED BY THE EXCESSIVE INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF OIL.
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PAGE 02 PARIS 09021 101431Z

THEY HAVE MADE KNOWN THAT THERE ARE WAYS TO DO THIS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

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OTHER THAN THROUGH GRANTING OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
IN THIS RESPECT, RECOURSE TO A POLICY OF AGREED PRICES
COULD BE CONSIDERED.

4. QTE: THIS IS A NEW LANGUAGE WHICH COULD BE
DICTATED BY SOMETHING OTHER THAN A SIMPLE CHANGE OF
TACTICS. CONFIRMATION COULD BE FOUND IN THE NEW TONE
ADOPTED TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES BY THE ALGERIAN
DELEGATION EVEN IF THE LATTER IS POSING AS SINGLE
SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEMANDS OF THE THIRD WORLD. WOULD IT
BE THE SAME IF GISCARD WERE NOT GOING TOMORROW TO
ALGERIA? THIS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED.

5. QTE: THE IDEA OF ADOPTING A FLOOR PRICE FOR OIL,
WHICH IS BEING PUSHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DOES
NOT NOTICEABLY DIFFER FROM THE FRENCH IDEA OF A SUPPORT
PRICE FOR THE MAJOR RAW MATERIALS: AND OIL, AFTER ALL,
IS A RAW MATERIAL AMONG OTHERS, EVEN IF IT IS A VERY
SPECIAL ONE. THIS IS THE WAY THE DIPLOMATS REASON.
THIS IS IN ANY CASE THE REAL CENTER OF INTEREST OF THE
"CONFERENCE BEHIND THE CONFERENCE" WHICH IS TAKING PLACE
IN PARIS AMONGST ALL THE UNKNOWN FACTORS WHICH ARE
CREATED BY THE OPEN OPPOSITION OF THE US TREASURY
DEPARTMENT TO ABANDONING THE WORKING OF THE MARKETS,
AND THE HESITATIONS OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

6. QTE: NONETHELESS, ON ALL SIDES FLEXIBILITY SEEMS TO
BE CARRYING THE DAY BEFORE RIGIDITY. UNQUOTE.
RUSH

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